



1941.

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT ON THE

PUBLIC HEALTH

OF

HERTFORDSHIRE

BEING THAT FOR THE YEAR

1941

BY

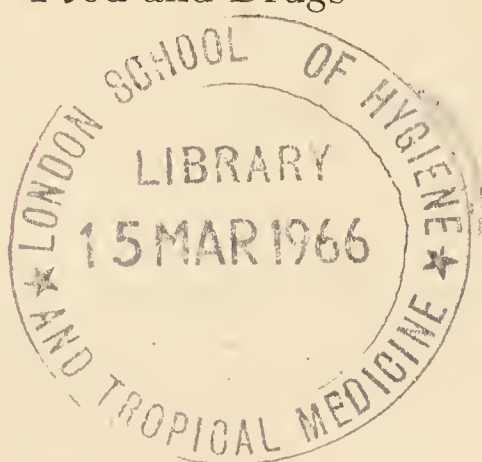
J. L. DUNLOP

M.D., D.P.H.

County Medical Officer of Health.

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Public Health and Housing Committee.

Chairman : H. E. Fern.

Public Assistance.

Chairman : Sir David Rutherford.

Tuberculosis Committee.

Chairman : H. A. Maxfield.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

Chairman : Mrs. V. Martin-Smith, O.B.E.

Committee under the Mental Deficiency Act.

Chairman : H. Fletcher.

Blind Persons Act Committee.

Chairman : S. J. Goddard.

District Medical Officers of Health.

<i>Name and Address.</i>	<i>District.</i>
Cox, Dr. W. J., Public Health Department, Town Hall, Watford.	Borough of Watford.
*Thomas, Dr. A. T. (serving with H.M. Forces), Council Offices, Hatfield.	Welwyn Garden City U.D. ; Welwyn R.D. ; Hatfield R.D.
Gross, Dr. Malcolm, Public Health Department, Market Square, Hemel Hempstead.	Berkhamsted U.D. ; Hemel Hempstead Borough ; Tring U.D. ; Berkhamsted R.D. ; Hemel Hempstead R.D.
Harvey, Dr. W., 74 Mildred Avenue, Watford.	Bushey U.D. ; Chorleywood U.D. ; Rick- mansworth U.D. ; Watford R.D.
Everett, Dr. G. W. (temporary), Council Offices, Boreham Wood.	Elstree R.D.
Hyatt, Dr. A. L. (temporary), Council Offices, Barnet.	Barnet U.D.
Macfadyen, Dr. N., 123 Norton Way, Letchworth.	Hitchin U.D. ; Royston U.D. ; Hitchin R.D.
Russell, Dr. B. (temporary), Manor House, Cheshunt.	Cheshunt U.D.
Paton, Dr. R., St. Peter's Street, St. Albans.	City of St. Albans ; St. Albans R.D. ; Harpenden U.D.
Scott, Dr. C. M. (temporary), Town Hall, New Barnet.	East Barnet Valley U.D.
Suggit, Dr. B., Council Offices, Letchworth.	Baldock U.D. ; Letchworth U.D. ; Stevenage U.D.
Whitelaw, Dr. A. D., The Castle, Hertford.	Bishop's Stortford U.D. ; Borough of Hert- ford ; Hoddesdon U.D. ; Sawbridgeworth U.D. ; Ware U.D. ; Braughing R.D. ; Hertford R.D. ; Ware R.D.

* Dr. C. D. Cardinal, of Hatfield, Dr. G. Miall Smith, of Welwyn Garden City, and Dr. L. Burville Holmes, of Hatfield, are acting as temporary Medical Officers of Health for the Hatfield Rural, Welwyn Garden City Urban, and Welwyn Rural Districts respectively.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Report on the Public Health of the County for the Year 1941.

The completion of the Report, even at this late date, has been difficult. The statistics were completed some months ago, but since then it has only too often been necessary to choose between doing constructive work that was clamouring to be done, or writing a Report about work that had been done. In these circumstances, one made the only possible choice. As a result, the Report is little more than a collection of statistics interlarded with a few comments on the conclusions to be drawn from the figures given.

This does not imply that there has been nothing to report but, with the present staff in the Department, it has been impossible to do more than maintain the day-to-day work. There has been no time to carry out any detailed investigations which could be presented in the form of a complete report; and, indeed, there has been very little time even for reflection on the implications of the figures presented here.

If the Committee feel that fuller reports are desirable in war-time, it will be necessary to consider appointing to my staff a Senior Medical Officer with considerable experience in the work of a County Medical Department. The County Council have already sanctioned an appointment of this kind but, under present conditions, a suitable Officer would necessarily be obtained from among those who, by virtue of their present responsibilities, are reserved from military service. This being so, I have not felt justified in asking the County Council to take any steps to make this appointment. I feel very strongly that, provided the essential work of the Department is maintained, it is reasonable in war-time to allow reporting to be reduced to the minimum. I hope that the Committee will share this view.

The Report shows some disappointing features, particularly the increases in the Infant Mortality Rate and the Tuberculosis Rates. In the years between 1918 and 1940, these Rates had shown a satisfactory decrease. It is distressing that we should now be losing ground; but, having regard to the inevitable interference with the Health Services and our way of living, one may well be surprised that the leeway has not been greater. Anyone who paid a visit to the Air Raid Shelters in this County during the winter 1940-41, must have had forebodings of a much more serious increase, not only in these items, but also in all those which depend on a decent standard of living.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. L. DUNLOP,

County Medical Officer.

THE HEALTH OF THE COUNTY, 1941.

TABLE 1.
STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

	URBAN			RURAL			COUNTY		
	1941	1940	10 years †	1941	1940	10 years †	1941	1940	10 years †
Population . . .	432,500	405,300	332,059	166,200	152,500	127,900	598,700	557,800	460,600
Birth-rate . . .	13·0	13·9	14·3	12·3	13·3	13·9	12·8	13·7	14·2
Death-rate . . .	10·9	11·2	10·2	10·5	10·5	10·0	10·8	11·0	10·1
Infant Mortality * .	48	41	41	41	39	36	46	40	39
Epidemic Death-rate .	·17	·10	·10	·09	·10	·10	·15	·10	·10
Phthisis Death-rate .	·46	·38	·45	·39	·39	·37	·44	·39	·42
Cancer Death-rate .	1·60	1·5	1·5	1·59	1·4	1·4	1·60	1·4	1·4
Maternal Mortality .	1·77	3·08	2·68	2·91	2·36	3·69	2·07	2·88	2·94

* Per 1,000 Births.

† 1931-1940.

The population as estimated by the Registrar-General is 598,700, an increase of 40,900 over the estimate for 1940. On the instructions of the Ministry of Health details of the population for the various urban and rural districts have not been given.

The above table gives the chief vital statistics for the County during 1941, and, for comparison, the figures for 1940 and for the decennium 1931-40.

There has been a decrease in the birth rate which has fallen from 13·7 to 12·8 ; the death rate has also fallen from 11·0 to 10·8. The infant-mortality has increased from 40 to 46 per 1,000 births. The death-rates from tuberculosis and epidemic diseases also show increases—from ·39 to ·44 and from ·10 to ·15 respectively. The cancer death rate has increased from 1·4 to 1·6.

TABLE 2.
POPULATION AND ACREAGE.

	Acreage (Land and Water)	POPULATION				
		Census, 1911	Census, 1921	Census, 1931	Estimate, 1940*	Estimate, 1941*
Urban Dis- tricts.	70,048	211,183	230,696	280,977	405,300	432,500
Rural Dis- tricts.	334,472	100,101	102,499	120,229	152,500	166,200
County .	404,520	311,284	333,195	401,206	557,800	598,700
England & Wales	37,339,215	36,070,492	37,885,242	39,947,931		

* To Mid Year.

TABLE 3.
BIRTH-RATE.
(Per 1,000 Population.)

	Hertfordshire						England and Wales
	Urban		Rural		County		
	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	
1911-20	18·0*	3,971*	18·2*	2,003*	18·1*	5,974*	21·8*
1921-30	16·1*	3,939*	14·2*	1,739*	15·9*	5,678*	18·3*
1931-40	14·3*	4,794*	13·9*	1,798*	13·7*	6,593*	14·9*
1940	13·9	5,840	13·3	2,111	13·7	7,951	14·6
1941	13·0	5,633	12·3	2,060	12·8	7,693	14·2

* = Average.

The birth-rate for 1941 was 12.8 compared with 13.7 for 1940. The fall in the rate has taken place in both Urban and Rural Districts but has not been consistent. Increases in the following districts have been recorded: Berkhamsted, Bishop's Stortford, Bushey, Cheshunt, Hitchin, Royston Urban and Berkhamsted, Braughing, Elstree and Hitchin Rural.

The number of births assigned to the County is the nett figure after allowing for inward and outward transfers. Births are assigned to the area of parents' residence in a manner similar to that adopted in the case of deaths.

The total of births in Institutions (including Emergency Maternity Homes and Hospitals) was 7,162 compared with 5,062 for the year 1940.

TABLE 4.
DEATH-RATE.
(Per 1,000 Population.)

	Hertfordshire						England and Wales
	Urban		Rural		County		
	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	
1911-20 .	11.6*	2,393*	11.6*	1,221*	11.6*	3,614*	14.3*
1921-30 .	10.4*	2,585*	10.3*	1,145*	10.4*	3,730*	11.8*
1931-40 .	10.2*	3,438*	10.0*	1,318*	10.1*	4,756*	12.2*
1940 .	11.2	4,528	10.5	1,598	11.0	6,126	14.3
1941 .	10.9	4,745	10.5	1,752	10.8	6,497	12.9

* = Average.

There has been a decrease in the death-rate for the County from 11.0 to 10.8. The rate has fallen in the Urban Districts from 11.2 to 10.9 but has remained stationary at 10.5 for the Rural Districts.

One would have thought that the continued call-up of young men and women to the Services would have resulted in an "older" population with a higher death-rate. See Table 12 for deaths at different age-periods.

TABLE 5.
INFANT MORTALITY.
(Per 1,000 Births.)

	Hertfordshire						England and Wales
	Urban		Rural		County		
	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
1911-20 .	67*	259*	58*	119*	63*	378*	100*
1921-30 .	46*	192*	45*	79*	47*	271*	81*
1931-40 .	41*	197*	36*	65*	39*	263*	58*
1940 .	41	237	39	82	40	319	55
1941 .	48	280	41	91	46	371	59

* = Average.

This rate has again shown an increase in both Urban and Rural Districts. All districts in the County show increases except Bishop's Stortford, Bushey, Harpenden, Letchworth, Stevenage, Tring, Welwyn Garden City Urban and Braughing, Hatfield, Hertford, Hitchin, Ware, and Watford Rural.

The comparable figures for England and Wales show that the infant mortality rate of 50 in 1939 increased to 59 in 1941. It may be reassuring to know that the increase is not peculiar to the County, but it is disappointing to find that we have not been able to maintain the improvement in this rate which with the maternal mortality death-rate we have come to regard as the measure of the success of our maternity services.

The following table shows the number of legitimate and illegitimate births for each district, together with the infant mortality rate.

TABLE 6.
DETAILS OF BIRTHS AND INFANT DEATHS IN DISTRICTS.

	Births					Infant Mortality*				
	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Total*	Legitimate		Illegitimate		Rate
	Males	Females	Males	Females		Males	Females	Males	Females	
URBAN—										
Baldock	43	41	3	3	90	2	3	—	1	60·60
Barnet	128	134	6	3	271	7	4	—	1	45·11
Berkhamsted	77	68	1	1	147	6	2	—	—	48·78
Bishop's Stortford	76	85	10	6	177	6	1	—	—	36·64
Bushey	98	91	8	3	200	4	2	—	—	29·70
Cheshunt	143	138	13	7	301	9	2	—	—	36·66
Chorleywood	19	22	2	1	44	2	1	—	—	65·21
East Barnet	241	226	6	5	478	15	8	—	—	48·93
Harpenden	83	66	8	5	162	4	2	—	1	37·23
Hemel Hempstead	167	134	3	7	311	8	9	—	—	51·98
Hertford	77	72	7	4	160	4	3	—	—	40·46
Hitchin	143	158	11	6	318	8	10	1	—	56·37
Hoddesdon	79	100	1	2	182	3	5	—	—	41·66
Letchworth	139	131	2	9	281	10	2	—	—	39·73
Rickmansworth	148	154	12	6	320	12	9	1	—	67·68
Royston	43	41	—	2	86	2	1	—	—	34·88
St. Albans	265	230	19	16	530	10	18	4	1	54·63
Sawbridgeworth	11	20	—	2	33	—	—	—	—	—
Stevenage	47	35	2	2	86	—	2	—	—	21·05
Tring	25	29	2	—	56	4	1	—	—	69·44
Ware	56	58	4	2	120	—	3	—	—	24·79
Watford	468	472	30	26	996	33	19	3	1	56·28
Welwyn Garden City	149	125	4	6	284	5	5	—	—	35·21
Total Urban	2,725	2,630	154	124	5,633	154	112	9	5	47·68
RURAL—										
Berkhamsted	30	33	2	—	65	2	3	—	—	67·56
Braughing	66	59	1	4	130	5	1	—	—	42·25
Elstree	86	74	6	6	172	6	4	—	1	63·95
Hatfield	144	146	9	10	309	4	5	1	1	35·03
Hemel Hempstead	69	61	4	1	135	4	3	—	—	46·35
Hertford	48	50	4	2	104	3	2	—	—	41·32
Hitchin	150	133	3	6	292	8	—	—	—	23·52
St. Albans	185	153	12	11	364	12	6	—	—	45·22
Ware	67	73	2	3	145	5	2	—	—	46·05
Watford	149	128	4	4	285	7	4	—	—	38·19
Welwyn	33	26	1	2	62	2	—	—	—	29·85
Total Rural	1,027	936	48	49	2,060	58	30	1	2	41·00
Total County	3,752	3,566	202	173	7,693	212	142	10	7	45·84

* The number of births (7,693) in Table 3 was the figure supplied by the Registrar-General for the purpose of calculating the birth-rate. The number of births given by the Registrar-General for the purpose of calculating the infant mortality rate and the maternal mortality rate was 8,093.

The Death-rate of Legitimate and Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate and Illegitimate Births is :—

<i>Legitimate.</i>		<i>Illegitimate.</i>	
Urban Districts	49·6	Urban Districts	50·3
Rural "	44·7	Rural "	30·9
County "	48·3	County "	45·3

TABLE 7.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

NUMBER OF DEATHS OF MOTHERS PER 1,000 BIRTHS.

	Hertfordshire					
	Urban		Rural		County	
	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number
1931-40 .	2.7*	130*	3.4*	62*	3.1*	192*
1940 .	2.9	17	2.8	6	2.8	23
1941 .	1.7	10	2.9	6	2.0	16

* Average.

The number of maternal deaths was 16, giving a death-rate for the year of 2.07 compared with 23 deaths with a death-rate of 2.8 for the previous year. Fifteen Urban Districts and seven Rural Districts recorded no maternal deaths. For details of the maternal deaths as they occurred in the several districts of the County, see Table 12, items 29 and 30.

TABLE 8.

CANCER OR MALIGNANT DISEASES.

(Per 1,000 Population)

	Hertfordshire						England and Wales
	Urban		Rural		County		Rate
	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	
1911-20 .	1.2*	252*	1.2*	128*	1.2*	380*	1.2*
1921-30 .	1.4*	342*	1.3*	151*	1.3*	493*	1.2*
1931-40 .	1.5*	507*	1.4*	186*	1.4*	693*	1.4*
1940 .	1.5	594	1.4	208	1.4	802	1.6
1941 .	1.6	694	1.5	264	1.6	958	1.6

* = Average.

The increase of .2 per 1,000 in the cancer death-rate is not surprising. The age constitution of the population is markedly weighted in the older age-groups which are those more prone to the disease. A falling death-rate must mean that more of the population live to succumb to this disease. The E.M.S. scheme has improved hospital diagnostic and treatment facilities in this County. The early results of this improvement are likely to be an increase in the number of cases diagnosed when no longer amenable to treatment. It is reasonable to hope that the next stage will be an increase in the numbers diagnosed and successfully treated.

TABLE 9.
TUBERCULOSIS.
DEATH-RATES FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

	Hertfordshire						England and Wales
	Urban		Rural		County		Rate
	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	
1911-20 .	.8*	169*	.7*	79*	.7*	248*	1.0*
1921-30 .	.6*	158*	.5*	63*	.5*	221*	.7*
1931-40 .	.45*	151*	.37*	48*	.43*	199*	.6
1940 .	.38	156	.39	59	.39	215	.5
1941 .	.46	201	.39	66	.44	267	.5

* = Average.

TABLE 10.
TUBERCULOSIS.
DEATH-RATES FROM NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

	Hertfordshire						England and Wales
	Urban		Rural		County		Rate
	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	
1940 . . .	.10	39	.07	11	.08	50	.10
1941 . . .	.09	42	.11	19	.10	61	.12

TABLE 11.
TABLE GIVING NOTIFICATIONS OF PULMONARY AND NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

		Number of cases notified			Attack rate per 1,000
		M.	F.	Total	
Pulmonary . . .	Urban	222	141	363	.83
	Rural	61	52	113	.67
	County	283	193	476	.79
Non-Pulmonary . . .	Urban	76	54	130	.30
	Rural	17	21	38	.22
	County	93	75	168	.28
Pulmonary & Non-Pulmonary . . .	Urban	298	195	493	1.14
	Rural	78	73	151	.90
	County	376	268	644	1.07

REPORT OF CHIEF CLINICAL TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER.

There has again been a sharp rise in both the attack rate and the death rate from tuberculosis. The death rate has risen from .39 to .44 per thousand, while the attack rate has risen from .59 to .79 per thousand in the case of pulmonary tuberculosis, and from .18 to .28 per thousand in the case of non-

pulmonary tuberculosis. The cause is, probably due to the same factors as existed last year, viz. overstrain, both physical and mental, and overcrowding as the result of evacuation. The result of the increase of the attack rate has been that the number of cases examined has risen considerably, but unfortunately, owing to difficulty with regard to providing assistant nurses at the Sanatorium, the number of beds available for the treatment of adult cases of pulmonary tuberculosis has been temporarily considerably reduced. (*N.B* — 1942—A sum of £5,000 has now, however, been allocated by the County Council for the carrying out of structural improvements at the sanatorium, and at the same time a scheme for training student nurses from the municipal hospitals in the County has been inaugurated, and will soon be put into operation. It is hoped that the result of these two measures will be that the number of beds available at Ware Park will be at the pre-war level.)

Particulars regarding the new cases dealt with under the Scheme are given below.

	<i>War Evacuees (official and unofficial).</i>	<i>Others.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Number of cases examined	326	1,540	1,866
Number found to be suffering from tuberculosis	153	572	725 i.e. 38%
Contacts examined	16	290	306
Cases treated in Sanatoria	17	280	297
Cases treated in hospitals	3	80	83
Cases recommended domiciliary treatment	62	364	426
Cases recommended dispensary treatment	34	83	117
Cases under observation	55	138	193

REPORT OF MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SANATORIUM.

The following are the totals of admissions, discharges, and deaths during the past year, together with the condition of those admitted and discharged :—

Admissions : 283. Discharges : 277. Deaths : 50.

<i>Condition on admission.</i>	<i>Condition on discharge.</i>
Early 16	Able to work 120
Intermediate 122	Improved 118
Advanced 115	Stationary 28
Surgical 3	Worse 11
Pleural Effusion 13	
Suspects 14	

The average number of beds occupied during the year was 136.

The number of beds provided was 149. Owing to shortage of nursing and domestic staff this number was reduced to 96 in December, 1941.

Various forms of special treatment were carried out during the year. This included :—

52 patients treated with tuberculin.
108 „ „ „ sanocrysin.
105 „ „ „ artificial pneumothorax.

X-ray.—During the year 900 films were taken and 950 patients were screened.

Laboratory.—This has been in use during the whole year, and 951 sputum examinations have been made.

COLONY SCHEME.

Number of permanent colonists at 1st January, 1941 .	6
„ „ probationer colonists at 1st January, 1941 .	1
Permanent colonists admitted during year	4
„ „ transferred back to sanatorium	2
„ „ left at own request	3
„ „ in sanatoria at 31.12.41	5
Probationer „ „ „ „	3

The occupations of the Permanent Colonists were :—

Hairdresser.	Handymen (2).
Poultry keeper (2).	Horse Carter.
Ward Orderly.	Van Driver.
Park keeper.	Sewing maid.

TABLE 12.—CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE, 1941.

	AGE GROUPS—URBAN DISTRICTS										AGE GROUPS—RURAL DISTRICTS										County Total																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																								
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REPORT OF THE TUBERCULOSIS WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE HEALTH VISITORS AND DISTRICT NURSES.

During the year 1941, the District Nurses have attended 174 cases of which 101 were Nursing cases and 73 Observation cases. They have also visited 77 cases for the purpose of taking temperatures. In addition 374 Home Condition reports and 23 Shelter reports have been filled in and forwarded, making a total of 397 reports. The number of visits made by the District Nurses to the homes of Tuberculosis patients during the year was as follows :— Domiciliary nursing, 4,616 visits ; for taking temperatures, 458 ; obtaining shelter reports, 23 ; special visits, 26 ; making a total of 5,123 visits in addition to the 374 visits paid to obtain Home Condition reports.

During the year the County Council Health Visitors have attended 16 cases. In addition they have filled in 113 Home Condition reports, 9 Shelter reports, making a total of 122 reports. The number of visits made by the Health Visitors to the homes of Tuberculosis patients was 280, in addition to the visits paid to obtain Home Condition and Shelter reports.

The total number of visits paid to the homes of patients by the District Nurses and Health Visitors was 5,907.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Hertfordshire is one of the members of the London and Home Counties venereal diseases scheme. There is a reduction in the number of patients treated under this scheme as was to be expected in view of the development of clinics in the County. Everything has been done to encourage patients to use the County clinics and to avoid paying travelling expenses to London clinics unless the patient could not attend locally. The London Scheme provides in-patient treatment for all types of cases. The in-patient accommodation in Hertfordshire is limited to six beds for females. One cannot therefore suggest that the London scheme is redundant.

TABLE 13.
ANNUAL SUMMARY FOR 1941.

Hospitals	New Patients					Total Attendances	In-patient days
	Syp.	S.C.	Gon.	Not V.D.	Total		
Albert Dock	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Royal Northern	5	—	5	14	24	1,991	2
Guy's	1	—	3	5	9	260	—
King's College	—	—	—	—	—	8	—
Metropolitan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miller General	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Royal Free	—	—	4	21	25	180	12
St. George's	1	—	6	2	9	63	—
St. John's, Lewisham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Mary's	5	—	4	5	14	263	5
St. Thomas's	2	—	—	23	25	339	—
Seamen's	—	—	1	1	2	15	—
S. London for Women	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
University College	1	—	1	4	6	279	12
West London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Westminster	—	—	1	2	3	119	—
S. Army Mothers' Hospital	1	—	3	2	6	202	90
Whitechapel Clinic	1	—	2	2	6	87	—
St. Paul's, Endell Street (1st Oct.— 31st Dec.)	—	—	—	—	—	9	—
Total for 1941	17	—	31	81	129	3,815	121
Total for 1940	10	—	45	104	159	4,515	333

HERTFORDSHIRE PATIENTS ATTENDING V.D. CLINICS IN LONDON.

Number of pathological examinations carried out for private practitioners during 1941	174
Number of pathological examinations carried out for or at the Centres in London during 1941 :—	
(a) For Spirochaetes	8
(b) For Gonococci	593
(c) For Wassermann	257
(d) For other reasons	270
	<u>1,128</u>

The figures given in the following table show that the treatment centres set up at Watford, St. Albans, Bishop's Stortford, and Hitchin have amply justified their existence.

They have provided treatment facilities not only for our own residents, but also for the Service cases and war workers in the County. It is vitally important that venereal diseases should be diagnosed and treated with the least possible delay. The treatment in many cases is long and dispiriting, and everything should be done to make the patient keep up treatment with the least possible inconvenience. Venereal disease can be cured if it is treated early enough and long enough. The first step in ensuring that cases are treated is the provision of reasonable facilities for treatment.

Month	New Cases				Total Attendance	Blood Tests	Irrigations and intermediate treatments
	Syp.	Gon.	Not V.D.	Not Diagnosed			
January .	23	9	3	14	389	73	543
February .	6	16	7	8	418	74	519
March .	9	13	—	22	449	73	551
April .	7	8	1	20	557	83	601
May .	5	8	5	27	480	76	467
June .	10	10	4	1	355	62	391
July .	5	13	7	18	491	81	437
August .	10	8	8	17	398	72	394
September .	13	14	1	23	621	77	566
October .	3	2	1	30	471	76	747
November .	8	20	1	—	695	63	244
December .	16	24	9	20	675	135	684
Total 1941 .	115	145	47	200	5,999	945	6,144
Total 1940 .	67	109	111	70	4,232	497	5,029

BLIND PERSONS.

Under the Blind Persons Act, 1920, the County Council makes provision for (a) the supervision of children under school age ; (b) employment of blind persons ; (c) a scheme for home workers ; (d) home teachers ; (e) maintenance grants in homes ; (f) maintenance grants in hostels ; (g) assistance to unemployable or other destitute blind persons ; (h) registration ; (i) general social welfare.

Educable children are dealt with by the Education Committee.

REGISTRATION.—The register of blind persons in the County is as follows, and shows an increase of five in the past year.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
As at 31st November, 1936	249	291	540
„ „ 1937	272	315	587
„ „ 1938	285	348	633
„ „ 1939	300	345	645
„ „ 1940	300	359	659
„ „ 1941	294	367	664

PUBLIC VACCINATION.

The total number of vaccinations during the year 1941 was 1,741, compared with 1,680 for 1940. Of this number

1,597 were primary vaccinations in children under 1 year.
 106 were primary vaccinations in children over 1 year.
 38 were re-vaccinations.

There were 7,693 children born in the County during 1941, and 1,597 children under 1 year were vaccinated. A proportion of the children in this category were born in 1940, but a corresponding number of children born in 1941 were not vaccinated. By expressing these two figures as a percentage we get some indication of the extent to which vaccination was accepted during the period for young children under one year of age. Corresponding figures for previous years are :—

1938	.	21.7	1939	.	20.1	1940	.	20.3	1941	.	20.7
------	---	------	------	---	------	------	---	------	------	---	------

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

Although the County Council has no authority to carry out diphtheria immunization apart from the scheme approved by the Ministry in 1934, whereby children attending infant welfare centres are offered immunization, every effort is made through this Department to bring the importance of immunization to the notice of the public. The following figures show the number of children immunized at the maternity centres during the year :—

		Completed.	Not completed.
County Council Centres	.	3,671	550
Voluntary Centres	.	1,876	125
		<hr/> 5,547	<hr/> 675

Everything possible has been done to encourage Medical Officers of Health to develop schemes for immunization in their Districts. The immunization done at the Infant Welfare Centres is a very useful means of maintaining the number of immunized children in the community but this cannot replace the "Immunization Campaign" and the *ad hoc* "Immunization Clinic". Early in the year the County Medical Officer prepared a lengthy circular giving in some detail directions for organizing and following up an immunization scheme. This was sent to Medical Officers of Health with an assurance that they could have the support of Assistant School Medical Officers and school teachers. Many districts had a general practitioner scheme which was considered adequate, but others were glad to avail themselves of the offer, and for some months considerable numbers of children were immunized by the School Medical Staff. In other areas the Staffs of the Emergency Public Health Laboratories gave valuable help in this direction.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The close collaboration with the Public Assistance Officer has continued—a collaboration which it is hoped has been mutually helpful. It certainly has been of great value to me to have the benefit of the Public Assistance Officer's long experience of hospital administration and medical relief, both subjects inextricably bound up with the work of the Medical Department.

The Hospitals owned by the County Council which are included in the E.M.S. scheme have continued to be busy. Some changes in the accommodation were agreed during the year. On the 31st December, 1941, the beds provided were :—

Hospital	County			E.M.S.	Total
	P.A. Sick	Maternity	P.A. House		
Wellhouse	279	23	11	497	810
Haymeads	208	21	33	835	1,097
Hempstead House	114	—	42	447	603
Western House	192	2	180	72	446
Chalkdell House	187	9	20	411	627
Oster House	200	14	108	113	435
Shrodells	403	10	145	114	672
Total	1,583	79	539	2,489*	4,690*

* In addition there are 1,106 E.M.S. Beds in Hill End and 144 in Cell Barnes—a total of 3,739 E.M.S. beds in County Council Institutions.

In some hospitals the distinction between Public Assistance and E.M.S. has been preserved to some extent; in others it has been entirely ignored. In either case the County patients have benefited from the presence of the E.M.S. staff and all its contacts with up-to-date hospital practice. Public Assistance Committee officers have retained their administrative responsibilities in these institutions. In most cases the contact between Local Government and Voluntary Hospital officials has done a great deal to break down barriers of misunderstanding which before the war seemed to be insurmountable.

My work with the Public Assistance Officer in preparing a draft scheme for providing a District Medical Officer's service for evacuees entitled to Public Assistance Medical Relief necessitated an invaluable review of the medical resources of the County.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

Particulars of mental defectives as on 31st December, 1941 :—

		Male.	Female.	Total.
Number of mental defectives ascertained to be " subject to be dealt with " :—				
Under " Order " :—				
(a) (1) In Institutions (excl. cases on Licence)	Under 16 years of age .	71	8	79
	Aged 16 years and over	264	250	514
(2) On Licence from Institutions	Under 16 years of age .	4	—	4
	Aged 16 years and over	17	21	38
(b) (1) Under Guardianship (excl. cases on Licence)	Under 16 years of age	2	1	3
	Aged 16 years and over	16	22	38
(2) On Licence from Guardianship	Under 16 years of age	—	—	—
	Aged 16 years and over	3	4	7
(c) In " places of safety "	Under 16 years of age .	—	1	1
	Aged 16 years and over	2	—	2
(d) Under Statutory Supervision		137	124	261

Number of mental defectives not at present " subject to be dealt with " but for whom the Local Authority may subsequently become liable :—

1. In Institutions or under Guardianship—dealt with under Sec. 3 :—

(a) In regard to whom the Local Authority contributes under its permissive powers	19	6	25
(b) Maintained wholly by parents, relatives or others	4	5	9

2. Reported to the Local Authority from any reliable source and recognized by them as mentally defective but as to whom no action under the Mental Deficiency Acts has been taken :—

(a) Children between the ages of 14 and 16 years	21	25	46
Of whom, number, if any, under Voluntary Supervision	21	25	46
(b) All other cases	55	76	131

During the year 1941.

1. (a) Number of instances in which Licence was granted during 1941 :—

(1) From Institutions	6	3	14
(2) From Guardianship	—	—	—

(b) Number of instances in which cases on Licence have been returned to Institutions or transferred to Guardianship during the year 1941 :—

(1) To Institutions	1	4	5
(2) To Guardianship	—	1	1

2. Cases notified by Local Education Authorities [Section (2)] during the year 1941 :—

Method of disposal—

Sent to Institutions (by Order)	5	3	8
Placed under Guardianship (do.)	2	3	5
Placed under Statutory Supervision	6	5	11
Placed in " Places of Safety "	2	—	2
Died or Removed from Area	—	—	—
Action not yet taken (a) In Receipt of Poor Relief	—	—	—
(b) Others	—	—	—
Total	15	11	26

The County Council has at Cell Barnes an excellent colony for dealing with defectives who require institutional treatment and care. The provision and maintenance of a suitable institution is an important duty of the Mental Deficiency Act Committee, but it is by no means the only one. A Mental Deficiency service must also include adequate arrangements for "ascertainment", i.e. the discovery of defectives in the County, and for supervising and helping defectives who do not need to be cared for in institutions. Many of these with help and supervision can do useful work in the community. Others have parents who could give supervision if there were some means of occupying the patients during the day. "Occupation Centres" and Home Teachers might in many cases do away with the need for sending a patient to a Colony.

The same criticism has been accepted by the Education Committee. With a few exceptions we can only offer education in an ordinary school or in a residential school for educable defectives. There should be special day school classes for border line cases and educable defectives with good homes interposed between the ordinary school and the special residential school. Similarly when a child is due to leave the special school there should be an alternative between treating them as normal or sending them to the Colony.

The problems of the Education Committee in dealing with children below average intelligence and the Mental Deficiency Committee are closely linked and the solution would be simpler, more efficient, and less costly if they worked in co-operation.

These reflections lead naturally to the idea of a County Mental Health Committee which would co-ordinate the work of dealing with those suffering from mental as opposed to physical ill-health or incapacity. These ideas have been discussed tentatively with the Clerk of the Council and the Chairmen and Medical Officers concerned.

The following report gives a summary of work done by the District Nurses and Health Visitors during 1941 in connection with mental deficiency.

During the year ended 31st December, 1941, work under the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, was carried out by the Nurses employed by the District Nursing Associations affiliated to the County Nursing Association and by seven County Council Health Visitors.

The number of defectives visited in their homes during the year was 261, and the number of visits paid to them was 1,579. 260 forms giving particulars regarding the home conditions and circumstances of the defectives were filled in.

Of the visits, 1,353 were paid by Nurses employed by Local District Nursing Associations in 64 districts. Of the Home Condition Report forms, 225 were filled in by these Nurses.

Of the 261 defectives, 137 were male and 124 females, and of the 1,579 visits, 813 were paid to males and 766 to females.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

WELFARE CENTRES.—Three Maternity and Child Welfare officers continue to be responsible for 20 County Council infant welfare centres and 16 ante-natal clinics. Attendances at these Centres and Clinics by mothers and infants numbered 63,040. In addition there are 41 voluntary infant welfare centres. Attendances at these voluntary centres by mothers and children numbered 48,311.

An innovation in the maternity and child welfare service was introduced during the year. The demand for additional sessions for evacuees begun in 1940 was continued in 1941. There was great difficulty in getting doctors who were qualified and willing to take on welfare centres. One of the Assistant School Medical Officers appointed in March, 1941, had the necessary experience and was posted to infant welfare centres at Abbots Langley and St. Albans.

The introduction of a scheme for the distribution of fruit juices was preceded by a circular from the Ministry asking Medical Officers of Welfare Authorities to co-operate. By conferring with representatives of the Ministry of Food it was possible to devise a scheme for the distribution of these preparations through the County Council and Voluntary Centres in the County which ensured that they would be reasonably available in every part of the County. The Food Authorities in this scheme agreed to a concession by which mothers attending Centres outside their appropriate "food area" could still draw supplies from their usual Centres.

The scheme for supplying additional clothing coupons to expectant mothers has placed a heavy clerical load on this Department. Very many cases entail considerable correspondence. 4,637 cases were dealt with in the five months of 1941, during which the scheme was in operation.

Assistance towards the cost of dental treatment and the supply of dentures continues to be given in necessitous cases. Facilities for dental treatment, operative treatment for tonsils and adenoids, treatment of defective vision, etc., have been extended to young children under the age of five thus bringing the treatment of young children into line with the treatment of school children.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Officers have, as usual, submitted reports on their work during the year.

Dr. Ornstein reports the increase of attendances at her Centres and Clinics and the continued co-operation with Local Food Officers in the distribution of liquid and dried milk, cod-liver oil and fruit juices. The teaching of the elements of diet and the utilization of the available foodstuffs formed a very important part of the year's work. All patients attending the Ante-natal Clinics were urged to buy a Vitamin A and D preparation. By purchasing this in quantity it is obtainable by them at a very low cost. The number of children immunized against diphtheria totalled more than three times the number for the previous year.

Dr. Chalmers also draws attention to the increase in the attendances at Centres and Clinics due partly to evacuation and partly to the greater interest in, and awareness of the County health services and an increased desire to obtain all the available adjuncts to health in war time and possibly to younger marriages with, as a consequence, a new and better attitude towards health services generally. Dr. Chalmers states that there has been an unusual increase in the attendances at ante-natal Clinics. This has been due to earlier attendance,

evacuation, and the desire to make use of the special facilities for the provision of extra milk and clothing coupons for expectant mothers and infants. In addition there has evidently been a localized increase in the birth-rate. Above all, however, the health of the expectant mother and the expected child has excited greater interest than hitherto, doubtless emphasized by war conditions. It is clear that the war has made mothers more than usually careful to secure all the social benefits available from the State and Local Authorities. It has been gratifying to note that the war has not brought about any apparent adverse state in the health of the pre-school children and, indeed, the standard of nutrition has, if anything, improved. Full advantage has been taken of the facilities provided for preventing vitamin deficiency, culminating in the provision by the State, of certain supplements of diets. Interest has been taken in the educational facilities provided at the Centres regarding the use of alternatives for the better-known sources of protective foodstuffs, particularly those containing Vitamin C.

Dr. Chalmers also comments on the noteworthy increase in the response to the provision for diphtheria immunization in pre-school children.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF DENTAL OFFICER ON MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE DENTAL SERVICES

The number of attendances at our dental clinics made by expectant and nursing mothers and children of pre-school age during 1941 was 2,074, the highest figure yet recorded.

Prior to 1939, the figures relating to mothers and children under five were grouped under one heading, but in the report for that year separate figures were shown. This year, records were kept of the number of expectant and nursing mothers seen, and it was found that attendances were in the ratio of 3·6 to 1. This would appear to support the observation in the report for last year, namely, that "the old prejudice against dental treatment being given during pregnancy is steadily dying out and the importance of removing the source of infection produced by a neglected mouth is becoming increasingly realized".

The amount of conservative work carried out again shows an improvement over last year, the number of operations for conserving the teeth, including fillings, having increased by 11·5 per cent. Particulars of the treatment given are shown in the following table:

	<i>Mothers.</i>	<i>Children.</i>
Inspected by the Dental Officers	689	796
Found to require treatment	665	779
Actually treated	659	755
Attendances made for treatment	1,096	978
Fillings	203	162
Extractions	1,966	1,640
Administrations of general anæsthetics	651	693
Other Operations	142	256

DENTAL TREATMENT, 1941.

Maternity.

Number of mothers inspected	689
Number found to require treatment	665
Number treated—	
Expectant	507
Nursing	152
	<hr/> 659

Attendances made by mothers for treatment—

Expectant	.	.	.	.	.	.	836
Nursing	.	.	.	.	.	.	260
							— 1,096
Fillings	.	.	.	.	.	.	203
Extractions	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,966
Administrations of general anæsthetics	.	.	.	.	.	.	651
Other operations	.	.	.	.	.	.	142

Child Welfare.

Number of children inspected	.	.	.	.	.	.	796
Number found to require treatment	.	.	.	.	.	.	779
Number treated	.	.	.	.	.	.	755
Attendances made by children for treatment	.	.	.	.	.	.	978
Fillings	.	.	.	.	.	.	162
Extractions	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,640
Administrations of general anæsthetics	.	.	.	.	.	.	693
Other operations	.	.	.	.	.	.	256

In addition to the examinations carried out at the clinics, five evacuated Nursery Schools were visited during the year, 133 children being inspected.

Mr. Wilson refers to the value of the work done in recommending and arranging for mothers to be supplied with dentures. He wishes that denture work could be undertaken at the County Dental Clinics not only because it would be less costly but also because it would simplify things for the mother. This development is one which must be deferred until an increased staff is obtained, but it is a very desirable one.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERVISOR OF MIDWIVES AND SUPERINTENDENT HEALTH VISITOR FOR THE YEAR 1941.

During the year 1941 the Health Visiting work has been carried out by the 122 Health Visitors, including eight whole-time County Council Nurses.

6,067 of the 9,353 babies born alive during 1940 (excluding Watford Urban District) have been visited by the Health Visitors, a percentage of 64·9 per cent.

Of the babies visited, 123 died before reaching the age of one year, showing a mortality of 20·3 per 1,000; 3,765 babies left the County before completing their first year. In all cases where the address could be obtained, it was forwarded to the local Health Authority.

From the Health Visitors' returns it is shown that 3,984 or 65·7 per cent of the infants were breast-fed; 1,162 or 19·2 per cent were partly breast-fed; 843 or 13·9 per cent were bottle-fed; 905 or 14·9 per cent used dummies; 1,646 or 27·1 per cent were vaccinated; 4,480 or 73·8 per cent were up to the average weight.

STATEMENT OF THE WORK OF THE SUPERVISOR OF MIDWIVES AND SUPERINTENDENT HEALTH VISITOR AND HER ASSISTANTS, FOR THE YEAR 1941.

Inspection of Midwives and Special Visits	.	.	.	.	.	.	678
Other Special Visits	.	.	.	.	.	.	154
Visits to Secretaries and Interviews	.	.	.	.	.	.	327
Visits to Infant Welfare Centres, Clinics, and Schools	.	.	.	.	.	.	157
Visits to Nursing Homes	.	.	.	.	.	.	105
Visits to Nursery Homes and Day Nurseries	.	.	.	.	.	.	103
Visits to Emergency Maternity Homes and Sick Bays	.	.	.	.	.	.	60
Attendance at Meetings	.	.	.	.	.	.	190
Lectures to pupils	.	.	.	.	.	.	21
Letters, Circulars, etc.	.	.	.	.	.	.	18,754

STATISTICS OF MIDWIVES PRACTISING IN THE COUNTY.

There were 319 trained midwives practising in the County on the 1st January, 1942. In addition there were 5 temporary midwives and 138 who have left or retired, making a total of 462 who practised in 1941.

Of those in practice on the 1st January, 1942, 57 are employed by the Local Supervising Authority, 144 are employed by Voluntary Associations, and 54 are in private practice, in addition to 64 midwives normally employed by other Local Supervising Authorities, but temporarily working in Hertfordshire.

In 1941 the midwives attended 10,650 cases. Of these 3,488 were domiciliary confinements ; 1,306 were with a doctor engaged and included 34 or 2·6 per cent stillbirths ; 2,182 were attended by midwives alone and included 38 or 1·7 per cent stillbirths.

Of the 10,650 births attended by midwives, 7,162 were in Institutions. These included 211 or 2·9 per cent stillbirths.

The number of infants who died before the fourteenth day in domiciliary cases was 33 in midwives' cases born alive, being a mortality of 15·1 per 1,000. Of the 33 infants who died before the fourteenth day, 12 were premature. In addition to these cases, the midwives attended 214 abortions.

5,268 expectant mothers have attended ante-natal clinics. The number of ante-natal visits by the midwives was 20,278.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Out of the 2,182 domiciliary midwifery cases, there were six maternal deaths, being a mortality of 2·7 per 1,000. Of the six deaths, four occurred in Hospital.

MEDICAL AID NOTICES.

The number of medical aid notices was 2,340 or 29·8 per cent.

MATERNITY HOMES.

There has been a steadily increasing demand for institutional accommodation for confinements. The Ministry of Health has sanctioned the use of Emergency Maternity Homes for local mothers who by reason of war conditions are unable to have their confinements at home. This is a conveniently broad definition, and to control the demand it was necessary to set up a Central organization to investigate applications and apportion those approved between the Emergency Maternity Homes and the County Maternity Homes. The extent to which we have been obliged to divert cases to Emergency Homes has shown how impossible the situation would have been had Emergency Homes not existed. No doubt war conditions have emphasized the demand for maternity beds, but there is every indication that many more beds will be required for the County after the war.

DISTRICT	TOTAL		BIRTHS ATTENDED BY MIDWIVES		INFANTS' DEATHS			NOTIFICATIONS				Maternal Deaths for whole County. Midwives		Midwives employed by Local Supervising Authority		Midwives employed by Voluntary Associations		Midwives in Private Practice		Midwives normally employed by other Local Authorities but temporarily working in the area	TOTAL NUMBER OF MIDWIVES
	Legitimate	Illegitimate	With Doctor	Midwife	Under 1 year	Rate per 1,000	Midwife's cases (Domiciliary cases) under 14 days	Medical Aid		Child	With Doctor	Midwife	Domiciliary	Institution	Domiciliary	Institution	Domiciliary	Institution	Domiciliary		
								Mother	Stillborn												
URBAN.																					
1. Baldock	93	6	49	48	6	60.6	1	4	6	1	26	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
2. Barnet	257	9	47	190	12	45.1	1	9	6	1	9	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	
3. Berkhamsted	161	3	58	99	8	48.8	1	26	1	1	4	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	
4. Bishop's Stortford	175	16	125	288	7	36.6	—	146	13	2	13	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	
5. Bushey	191	11	49	115	6	29.7	1 (1P)	21	5	2	5	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	
6. Cheshunt	280	20	124	162	11	36.7	—	26	2	—	2	12	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	
7. Chorley Wood	43	3	24	7	3	65.2	2	2	—	—	1	1	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
8. East Barnet	460	10	96	270	23	48.9	2	38	10	6	10	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	
9. Harpenden	175	13	104	96	7	37.2	—	43	2	1	2	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	
10. Hemel Hempstead	317	10	55	220	17	52.0	2 (1P)	37	6	2	6	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	
11. Hertford	162	11	69	140	7	40.5	—	25	5	3	5	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	
12. Hitchin	320	17	185	811	19	56.3	2 (1P)	162	28	8	2	15	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	
13. Hoddesdon	189	3	68	113	8	41.1	—	15	1	2	2	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	
14. Letchworth	291	11	159	114	12	39.7	1	27	2	5	7	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	
15. Rickmansworth	308	17	92	204	22	67.7	3 (1P)	35	5	4	5	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	
16. Royston	84	2	75	26	3	34.8	—	3	3	5	5	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	
17. St. Albans	567	37	196	781	33	54.0	3	185	31	6	3	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	
18. Sawbridgeworth	32	2	20	23	—	—	—	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
19. Stevenage	91	4	44	38	2	21.1	—	4	—	1	1	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
20. Tring	69	3	25	183	5	69.4	—	57	8	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	
21. Ware	115	6	29	171	3	24.8	—	77	6	1	6	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	
22. Watford	939	56	231	857	56	51.3	7 (3P)	364	58	5	11	22	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	33	
23. Welwyn Garden City	274	10	121	394	10	35.2	—	114	11	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	
Total for Urban Districts	5,593	280	2,045	5,350	280	47.7	24 (7P)	1,424	214	71	142	142	5	6	51	68	22	22	31	227	
RURAL.																					
1. Berkhamsted	72	2	16	132	5	67.6	—	5	—	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	
2. Braughing	137	5	67	84	6	42.3	3 (1P)	15	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	
3. Elstree	160	12	63	116	11	64.0	—	20	5	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	
4. Hatfield	294	20	140	530	11	35.0	—	13	1	17	3	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	
5. Hemel Hempstead	146	5	52	325	7	46.4	2 (2P)	153	21	3	30	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	
6. Hertford	115	6	57	246	5	41.3	—	99	30	4	27	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	
7. Hitchin	329	11	113	404	8	23.5	2 (1P)	146	27	4	4	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	
8. St. Albans	375	23	85	220	18	45.2	2 (1P)	22	4	3	2	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	
9. Ware	147	5	44	64	7	46.1	—	25	2	2	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	
10. Watford	280	8	84	363	11	38.2	—	86	21	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	
11. Welwyn	64	3	35	15	2	29.9	—	7	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Total for Rural Districts	2,119	100	756	2,499	91	41.0	9 (5P)	591	111	38	32	32	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	92	
Total for Urban Districts	5,593	280	2,045	5,350	280	47.7	24 (7P)	1,424	214	71	142	142	5	6	51	68	22	22	31	227	
Total for County	7,712	380	2,801	7,849	371	45.8	33 (12P)	2,015	325	109	174	283	7	6	51	121	23	25	64	319	

In some of these districts the number of births notified is in excess of those given in the Registrar's figures.

P = Premature.

TABLE 15.

BIRTHS NOTIFIED UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, FROM 1ST JANUARY
TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1940

District.	BIRTHS.		CASES ATTENDED		STILLBORN		Premature.	INFANTS VISI- TED BY HEALTH VISITORS			Death rate per 1,000 of the in- fants under one year for the county excluding Watford.	No. of Health Visitors.
	Notified.	Returned by Registrar.	By Doctor.	By Midwife.	Doctors' Cases.	Midwife's Cases.		Visited.	Died under 1 year (over 14 days old)	Death rate per 1,000 visited.		
Urban.												
1. Baldock	87	—	47	40	2	1	6	81	1	12.3	45.5	2
2. Barnet	307	2	133	176	5	7	18	213	3	14.1	25.1	2
3. Berkhamsted . .	102	3	26	79	3	3	5	79	3	38.0	41.7	3
4. Bishop's Stortford .	238	1	111	128	5	—	13	137	5	33.5	58.1	3
5. Bushey	875	6	778	103	17	4	47	134	2	14.9	66.3	3
6. Cheshunt	273	—	136	137	4	4	10	248	2	8.1	34.8	5
7. Chorleywood . . .	26	4	23	7	—	—	3	23	—	—	21.7	1
8. East Barnet . . .	485	2	216	271	—	10	28	436	9	20.6	41.1	8
9. Harpenden	186	2	101	87	3	3	12	135	4	29.6	38.9	2
10. Hemel Hempstead .	410	4	81	333	1	2	20	325	8	24.6	38.9	4
11. Hertford	192	1	60	133	—	5	11	143	4	28.0	27.5	4
12. Hitchin	490	5	133	362	12	6	39	301	11	36.5	44.7	4
13. Hoddesdon	221	4	97	128	—	2	22	190	5	26.3	32.4	6
14. Letchworth . . .	318	8	196	130	8	4	23	281	5	17.8	48.8	2
15. Rickmansworth . .	367	15	176	206	8	7	12	308	5	16.2	39.0	4
16. Royston	92	5	76	21	3	2	7	60	1	16.7	28.2	1
17. St. Albans	1,058	9	268	799	7	24	61	570	15	26.3	33.7	3
18. Sawbridgeworth . .	38	—	13	25	1	—	5	34	—	—	—	11
19. Stevenage	81	1	44	38	2	1	1	66	—	—	48.8	2
20. Tring	119	3	47	75	1	—	4	49	2	40.8	75.9	1
21. Ware	156	1	30	127	2	3	7	125	2	16.0	25.4	3
22. Welwyn Garden City	377	5	185	197	3	6	17	281	7	24.9	58.2	2
Total for Urban Districts	6,498	81	2,977	3,602	87	94	371	4,219	94	22.3	40.6	66
Rural.												
1. Elstree	145	—	64	81	—	1	10	132	—	—	27.7	3
2. Berkhamsted . . .	171	4	64	111	—	—	7	74	1	13.5	50.8	4
3. Braughing	162	4	110	56	2	2	9	93	3	32.3	44.6	5
4. Hatfield	608	19	182	445	15	9	14	304	1	3.3	35.5	7
5. Hemel Hempstead . .	259	1	91	169	—	2	10	188	3	16.0	13.7	5
6. Hertford	289	3	69	223	1	3	12	111	3	27.0	74.1	5
7. Hitchin	374	6	146	234	4	5	23	260	5	19.2	28.7	11
8. St. Albans	321	4	124	201	5	10	25	277	7	25.3	40.2	6
9. Ware	204	3	134	73	4	3	9	132	3	22.7	50.4	4
10. Watford	356	16	191	181	4	7	20	211	3	14.2	49.0	5
11. Welwyn	82	2	50	34	1	—	3	66	—	—	27.0	1
Total for Rural Districts	2,971	62	1,225	1,808	36	42	142	1,848	29	15.7	38.8	56
Total for Urban Districts	6,498	81	2,977	3,602	87	94	371	4,219	94	22.3	40.6	66
Total for County . . .	9,469	143	4,202	5,410	123	136	513	6,067	123	20.3	40.1	122

TABLE 16.

TABLE OF HEALTH VISITORS' WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.
Year ending 31st December, 1941.

District.	Parishes in each District.	No. of New Homes Visited.	No. of Babies under Supervision, 31st Dec., 1941.	Health Visits to Mothers and Babies.	Health Visitors' Attendances at Maternity Centres	No. of Cases as Midwife and Maternity Nurse and Visits.	No. of Children aged 1-5 under Supervision, 31st Dec. 1941.	Visits to These.
No. 1 : Barnet	Barnet, Arkley, Totteridge	231	217	960	72		713	964
No. 2 : Tring	Tring	41	36	445	34	cases 7 visits 94	167	500
No. 3 : Letchworth	Letchworth and Willian	300	241	1,755	125		915	1,723
No. 4 : St. Albans	St. Albans	617	720	3,945	181		2,160	4,069
Nurses working under the County Nursing Association.		4,386	4,694	38,071	3,125		13,494	45,632
		5,575	5,908	45,176	3,537		17,449	52,888

*MR. EARDLEY HOLLAND'S REPORT ON THE EMERGENCY
MATERNITY HOMES, 1941.*

This is a detailed statistical report that may be briefly summarized as follows :—

There were 10 Maternity Homes with a total of 219 beds and 2 Maternity Hospitals with a total of 98 beds. All were open during the whole year, and the number of births was 3,332. There were also 3 temporary Maternity Hospitals open for the first two months of the year and in these hospitals there were 95 beds and 182 deliveries.

Brocket Hall, with 50 beds, may be regarded as the chief Hospital ; abnormal cases from the Emergency Maternity Homes, as well as a certain number of local County cases that require hospital treatment or major operations, such as Cæsarean Section, are transferred there to come under the care of the County Obstetric Consultant.

The new Maternity Unit at the N. Herts and S. Beds Hospital, Hitchin, is staffed on our behalf entirely by the London Hospital.

During the year five mothers died, four of the deaths being due to puerperal causes, and one being what is known as an " Associated Death ". The puerperal mortality rate is thus 1·1 per 1,000 deliveries, which is only about one-third of that for the whole of England and Wales. Bearing in mind that the Homes, as well as one of the Hospitals, are nearly all improvised from large country houses, this result is particularly creditable to the skill and care of the midwifery staff of the Homes and Hospitals. It should be remembered, too, in considering the puerperal mortality, that the proportion of abnormal cases in the two hospitals was high ; the number of Cæsarean Sections, for example, was 40, and the number of cases of Toxæmia of Pregnancy was 225, including 5 cases of Eclampsia.

It is also interesting to note that the number of complicated cases transferred from the Homes to the two Maternity Hospitals was no less than 115. There were also a number of emergency cases sent into the Hospitals by general practitioners in the surrounding neighbourhood.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

During the year ended 31st December, 1941, 332 children have been under supervision. The total number of visits paid to these children by the Nurses employed by the District Nursing Associations and the County Council Health Visitors was 2,419. 79 forms giving particulars of the home conditions of foster-mothers have been completed.

Of the 2,419 visits, 1,885 have been paid by Nurses employed by District Nursing Associations, and of the 79 forms giving particulars of Home conditions 59 have been filled in by these Nurses.

NURSING HOMES.

The Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927, has been repealed by sections 157–195 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

A nursing home is defined as any premises used or intended to be used for the reception of and the providing of nursing for persons suffering from any sickness, injury, or infirmity and includes a maternity home, it does not include (a) any hospital or premises maintained or controlled by a Government Department or Local Authority or any other body of persons constituted by a special Act of Parliament or incorporated by Royal Charter ; (b) any institution for lunatics within the meaning of the Lunacy Act, 1890, and (c) any certified institution, certified house or approved home within the meaning of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913. Voluntary hospitals in the County have been exempted from the provisions of the Act.

At the end of 1941 there were 40 registered homes in the County.

Routine visits are being maintained by the County Superintendent Health Visitor and the Assistant Superintendents. The Homes were well conducted throughout the year, though the demand for beds, particularly maternity beds, has sometimes tempted those in charge to admit more cases than the number for which they were registered.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

The Isolation Hospitals in the County in common with all hospitals have been facing the unfortunate combination of more work and reduced staff—both nursing and domestic. They have kept going, but they have sometimes been obliged to discriminate in the type of case accepted rather more than is ideal. The County Medical Officer during the year visited all the Isolation Hospitals in the County and was impressed by their excellence in several instances.

TABLE 17.
NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1941.

	Typhoid Fever	Para- typhoid Fever	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Smallpox	Measles	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Total for District
<i>Urban.</i>											
1. Baldock	—	—	9	60	2	—	—	47	13	1	132
2. Barnet	3	4	17	285	3	10	—	542	77	21	962
3. Berkhamsted	—	4	29	57	—	—	—	563	8	1	662
4. Bishop's Stortford	1	—	16	128	19	—	—	314	5	14	497
5. Bushey	—	1	11	57	3	2	—	256	6	20	358
6. Cheshunt	—	1	42	155	5	6	—	508	59	—	776
7. Chorleywood	—	—	8	57	—	1	—	183	3	—	252
8. East Barnet	1	—	77	268	10	11	—	890	28	—	1,285
9. Harpenden	—	1	39	114	19	7	—	353	12	2	547
10. Hemel Hempstead	1	2	55	109	24	4	—	541	1	3	740
11. Hertford	—	—	33	17	7	—	—	213	—	1	371
12. Hitchin	1	1	20	93	6	1	—	351	10	7	490
13. Hoddesdon	—	—	21	51	8	2	—	293	5	—	380
14. Letchworth	—	—	58	148	9	2	—	746	19	—	982
15. Rickmansworth	1	—	37	75	2	4	—	755	5	1	880
16. Royston	—	—	2	25	1	1	—	12	—	1	42
17. St. Albans	—	12	95	259	7	5	—	927	13	9	1,327
18. Sawbridgeworth	2	—	—	25	2	—	—	13	—	—	42
19. Stevenage	—	—	7	12	5	—	—	44	1	—	69
20. Tring	—	1	25	42	—	1	—	223	3	4	299
21. Ware	—	—	7	31	2	—	—	280	4	3	327
22. Watford	10	11	146	193	47	20	—	1,300	16	9	1,752
23. Welwyn Garden City	—	—	54	111	61	7	—	215	3	2	453
Total Urban	20	38	808	2,372	244	84	—	9,669	291	99	13,625
<i>Rural.</i>											
1. Berkhamsted	3	—	20	26	—	2	—	216	3	3	273
2. Braughing	—	—	13	45	2	2	—	206	12	4	284
3. Elstree	—	—	35	86	5	6	—	289	13	1	435
4. Hatfield	—	—	12	97	4	4	—	489	24	4	634
5. Hemel Hempstead	—	1	17	58	10	4	—	237	7	2	336
6. Hertford	—	—	7	6	19	1	—	114	2	—	149
7. Hitchin	—	—	7	70	3	—	—	327	15	3	425
8. St. Albans	—	4	22	107	10	—	—	338	18	1	500
9. Ware	—	1	20	55	5	2	—	537	10	1	631
10. Watford	—	—	44	105	7	7	—	474	77	4	718
11. Welwyn	—	1	5	6	3	—	—	81	1	—	97
Total Rural	3	7	202	661	68	28	—	3,308	182	23	4,482
Total County	23	45	1,010	3,033	312	112	—	12,977	473	122	18,107

WATER SUPPLY. SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The County Council's interest in helping Local Authorities with water and sewerage schemes has been well repaid by the way in which these services in the County have stood up to the strain put on them by the war.

The principal work under this head has been done in conferences and visits with the Army and Air Force Authorities in connection with sewage disposal schemes for camps and aerodromes. There has been difficulty in making satisfactory arrangements for disposing of night soil from isolated

units. By bringing military and local authorities together it has often been possible to help.

The Welwyn Garden City sewage treatment works have been known to be inadequate for many years, but for various reasons the Council has not been able to take action. In the summer of 1941, action became urgently necessary and work was begun on improving treatment and the outfall. The scheme included a piped water supply to houses which depended on the River Mimram into which the outfall from the new works is carried.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

At the end of 1941 there were 280 accredited and 76 Tuberculin Tested milk producers in the County.

The increase in the number of T.T. herds is very satisfactory. It is sometimes suggested that Medical Officers are unreasonably keen on clean milk for clean milk's sake. There can be no division of intelligent opinion on the need for a milk supply which is free from tubercle bacilli.

This department has, under the present system of administration, very little direct control over Designated Milks. It is hoped that despite the war this will be remedied.

(N.B.—The operative control of the Milk (Special Designation) Order was passed to this Department in April, 1942.)

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

The work under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts is carried out by the Inspectors appointed for the purpose, working under the Chief Constable. Analyses of samples taken are made by the County Analyst, Dr. Bernard Dyer, of the Analytical Laboratory, 17 Great Tower Street, London, E.C., from whose reports the following figures are taken :—

Summary of Samples Analysed from 1st January to 31st December, 1941.

	Samples analysed.	Samples unsatisfactory.		Samples analysed.	Samples unsatisfactory.
Almond Substitute,			Milk	583	72
Ground	1		Malt and Milk Tonic	2	1
Butter	15		Meat Faggot	1	
Brawn	2		Meat and Vegetable		
Blancmange Powder	1		Brawn	2	
Coffee	7		Mustard	1	
„ Extract	1		Onion Substitute	2	
„ Powder	1		Orange and Lemon		
„ and milk	1		Substitutes	5	3
Chocolate, Broken	1		Pork, Roast	1	
„ Milk	1		Pancake, Batter, and		
Cornflour	1		Fritter Mixture	1	
Curry Powder	1		Pudding, Yorkshire	2	
Custard Powder	2		Pickles	3	
Cinnamon, Ground	1		Rice, Ground	2	
Egg Flakes	1		Sausage, Savoury	1	
„ Mixture	6	5	„ Preserved	2	
„ Substitute Powder	3	1	Sausages	4	
Flour	1		Sugar Substitute	7	3
„ Self-raising	2		Sweetmeat	1	
Fruit Syrup, non-			Saccharin Tablets	2	
alcoholic	1		Vinegar	1	
Fruit extract	1		Whisky	1	1
Frying oil	1				
Jam	5			697	
Lard	6		“ Appeal to Cow ”		
Lemon Essence	2		milk samples	37	
„ Substitute	3	1			
„ Cordial	1				
„ Flavouring	1				
Lemonade	1			734	87
„ Powder	2				

TABLE 18.—CHIEF STATISTICS OF URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICTS

As compared with those for 1940 and with averages for 10 years 1921-1930 and 1931-1940.

Districts	Birth-Rates§				Death-Rates§				Infant Mortality||				Epidemic Mortality§				Death-Rate from Phtisis§				Death-Rate from Cancer§				District
	1941	1940	10 years * 1940	10 years † 1940	1941	1940	10 years * 1940	10 years † 1940	1941	1940	10 years * 1940	10 years † 1940	1941	1940	10 years * 1940	10 years † 1940	1941	1940	10 years * 1940	10 years † 1940	1941	1940	10 years * 1940	10 years † 1940	
Urban.																									Urban
Summary	13.0	13.9	14.3	16.1	10.9	11.2	10.2	10.4	48	41	41	46	.17	.10	.10	.46	.38	.45	.6	1.5	1.60	1.5	1.4	1.4	1
1. Baldock	15.8	16.4	17.2	16.1	10.7	8.7	12.0	13.2	61	45	48	47	—	—	.13	—	.19	.61	.6	2.4	.70	1.8	1.7	2	
2. Barnet	12.5	12.6	13.2	15.1	12.6	11.9	10.3	10.9	45	25	39	49	.13	.05	.07	.60	.41	.36	.5	1.5	1.71	1.2	1.5	3	
3. Berkhamsted	10.9	9.7	11.4	15.0	9.8	11.9	10.5	11.2	49	42	49	50	.07	.09	.06	.37	.34	.44	.7	1.5	1.94	1.5	1.4	4	
4. Bishop's Stortford	13.3	11.7	13.4	13.9	11.5	11.6	10.9	11.6	37	58	46	50	—	.08	.10	.60	.31	.39	.6	1.4	1.43	1.4	1.5	5	
5. Bushey	14.3	13.2	12.5	14.2	10.6	9.7	8.9	9.2	30	66	44	51	.14	—	.02	.21	.15	.30	.5	1.2	1.50	1.2	1.3	6	
6. Cheshunt	16.4	15.7	15.7	17.5	12.5	12.1	10.4	9.8	37	35	52	45	.38	.05	.05	.21	.44	.33	.6	1.8	2.34	1.8	1.1	7	
7. Chorleywood	8.5	9.5	9.4	14.3	10.3	9.8	9.6	9.5	65	22	39	55	—	.21	.02	.43	.44	.43	.5	1.7	1.36	1.7	1.1	8	
8. East Barnet	13.0	14.4	15.3	16.2	10.6	7.3	8.9	9.6	49	41	41	49	.13	.08	.09	.43	.50	.40	.4	1.4	1.52	1.4	1.3	9	
9. Harpenden	10.3	11.4	11.4	11.5	10.2	11.6	9.6	9.3	37	39	37	41	.19	.07	.14	.38	.07	.26	.4	1.2	1.46	1.2	1.4	10	
10. Hemel Hempstead	12.4	14.9	14.8	15.5	10.2	10.7	10.1	10.7	52	39	37	41	.24	.18	.14	.40	.46	.49	.4	1.4	1.12	1.4	1.3	11	
11. Hertford	10.8	12.0	12.9	15.6	12.0	13.4	10.7	11.6	40	27	43	47	.40	—	.07	.67	.43	.43	.6	2.7	1.69	2.7	1.6	12	
12. Hitchin	15.0	14.1	14.9	16.3	11.0	11.2	10.7	11.8	56	45	52	61	.09	.05	.09	.37	.26	.34	.5	1.9	1.51	1.9	1.4	13	
13. Hoddesdon	12.8	16.2	16.3	17.0	12.9	11.3	10.8	12.2	42	32	40	50	.07	.08	.09	.77	.23	.33	.3	1.5	1.83	1.8	1.5	14	
14. Letchworth	12.5	15.3	13.8	17.3	10.1	8.6	8.7	8.1	40	49	35	45	.04	.20	.09	.49	.49	.41	.5	1.2	1.51	1.2	1.0	15	
15. Rickmansworth	12.5	15.0	16.6	18.3	8.2	8.2	8.8	10.9	68	39	39	44	.15	.04	.06	.31	.17	.29	.5	.9	1.65	.7	.9	16	
16. Royston	18.9	15.5	11.2	13.3	12.9	14.9	12.5	12.8	35	28	19	48	—	.09	.10	.21	.23	.38	.4	1.4	2.41	1.4	1.9	17	
17. St. Albans	11.6	12.2	13.6	14.4	12.1	12.2	11.4	10.8	55	34	40	55	.17	.28	.23	.63	.66	.64	.6	1.8	1.83	1.8	1.4	18	
18. Sawbridgeworth	8.8	10.2	11.5	16.5	12.8	10.2	11.7	10.5	—	—	40	56	.53	.28	.23	.53	.57	.32	.2	.8	2.13	.8	1.1	19	
19. Stevenage	11.7	12.0	12.8	16.4	11.3	10.1	11.4	10.7	21	49	37	49	—	.20	.17	—	.31	.32	.2	1.2	1.36	1.2	1.2	20	
20. Tring	10.1	11.3	14.1	16.6	12.9	14.4	12.5	13.1	69	76	36	33	—	.08	.08	.69	.20	.41	.6	2.2	1.80	2.2	1.8	21	
21. Ware	13.9	14.2	15.1	18.6	11.8	13.6	12.4	11.8	25	25	44	44	.23	.12	.08	.37	.37	.66	.6	1.1	.81	1.1	1.2	22	
22. Watford	13.6	14.9	14.6	16.8	10.9	12.0	10.3	9.7	56	41	42	50	.26	.13	.11	.52	.47	.58	.7	1.3	1.61	1.3	1.4	23	
23. Welwyn Garden City	15.9	17.2	20.1	—	7.0	7.6	6.4	—	35	58	36	—	.22	.36	.08	.61	.12	.34	—	1.3	1.28	1.3	—		
Rural.																									Rural
Summary	12.3	13.3	13.9	14.8	10.5	10.5	10.0	10.3	41	39	36	45	.09	.10	.10	.39	.39	.37	.5	1.4	1.59	1.4	1.3	1	
1. Berkhamsted	10.0	9.8	13.5	15.8	11.2	10.1	10.8	11.8	67	51	37	59	.15	—	.07	.15	.34	.47	.7	1.6	2.77	1.7	1.5	2	
2. Braughing	11.5	10.2	—	—	14.0	12.0	—	—	42	45	—	—	—	.10	—	.26	.20	—	—	1.9	2.85	1.9	—	3	
3. Elstree	15.2	13.3	15.5	17.2	8.4	6.5	8.0	9.8	64	28	42	37	.26	.11	.11	.53	.37	.36	.4	.9	.88	.9	1.3	4	
4. Hatfield	15.0	18.0	16.5	17.8	9.2	8.2	9.2	9.5	35	36	32	39	—	.20	.09	.48	.20	.36	.4	1.7	1.51	1.7	1.3	5	
5. Hemel Hempstead	11.2	13.3	14.5	17.6	10.8	11.3	10.4	10.8	46	14	28	47	.24	.19	.08	.24	.33	.40	.4	1.9	2.15	1.9	1.3	6	
6. Hertford	12.1	12.4	12.6	15.6	13.8	13.6	11.7	11.0	41	74	48	42	—	—	.08	.46	.64	.49	.6	1.7	2.31	1.7	1.2	7	
7. Hitchin	11.9	11.7	13.2	17.3	11.8	11.9	11.6	11.4	23	29	40	42	.12	.14	.08	.28	.41	.28	.5	1.2	1.49	1.2	1.3	8	
8. St. Albans	12.9	15.1	14.5	14.9	8.1	8.0	7.9	8.1	45	40	31	46	.14	.16	.21	.42	.24	.33	.6	.7	1.32	.7	1.0	9	
9. Ware	12.2	12.7	13.2	16.1	11.1	15.1	11.4	12.0	46	50	39	42	.08	—	.10	.25	.46	.48	.5	2.0	1.51	2.0	1.4	10	
10. Watford	10.9	11.4	13.3	12.2	10.1	10.1	8.8	7.7	38	49	38	39	.03	.08	.18	.61	.66	.35	.7	1.0	1.03	1.0	1.3	11	
11. Welwyn	11.0	14.4	14.2	20.5	11.8	10.9	10.5	10.3	30	27	39	45	—	—	.02	.17	.39	.41	.3	1.6	1.42	1.6	1.3		
County Summary	12.8	13.7	14.2	15.9	10.8	11.0	10.1	10.4	46	40	39	47	.15	.10	.10	.44	.39	.42	.5	1.4	1.60	1.4	1.3		

*1931-1940

1921-1930

* § Per 1,000 Population

|| Per 1,000 Births

